

to make sure our military families can be assured that their loved ones will get the very best.

This military system of ours, when you really think about it, just across the country, it's very complex, and it's large. Yet there's nothing complex about what we owe our troops; we owe them the best. That's what you believe here at Walter Reed. I have seen the care and dedication that you give on a daily basis. I just came from the therapy rooms, the physical therapy and the vocational therapy rooms. I see people patiently working with a wounded soldier on how to pick up cards and play cards with a new prosthesis. It's just hours of help all because the people here recognize each human being matters, each person counts, and each person has endless possibilities, even though they may have received terrible wounds on the battlefield.

None of the problems that we have uncovered can overshadow the great work you do here. That's what you have to know. It's a special calling to serve those who serve our country. It requires a unique person to come here on a daily basis and to heal the hurts of those who served our country.

And so our Nation is grateful, and I'm proud to be your Commander in Chief.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:12 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to Brig. Gen. Michael S. Tucker, USA, deputy commanding general, Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

Notice—Intention To Enter Into a Free Trade Agreement With Panama
March 30, 2007

Consistent with section 2105(a)(1)(A) of the Trade Act of 2002, I have notified the Congress of my intention to enter into a free trade agreement with the Republic of Panama.

Consistent with section 2105(a)(1)(A) of that Act, this notice shall be published in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

The White House,
March 30, 2007.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:26 a.m., March 30, 2007]

NOTE: This notice was published in the *Federal Register* on April 2.

**Letter to Congressional Leaders
Transmitting a Notice of Intention
To Enter Into a Free Trade
Agreement With Panama**
March 30, 2007

Dear Madam Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

Consistent with section 2105(a)(1)(A) of the Trade Act of 2002, (Public Law 107-210; the "Trade Act"), I am pleased to notify the Congress of my intention to enter into a free trade agreement with the Republic of Panama.

The United States-Panama Trade Promotion Agreement (the "Agreement") will generate export opportunities for U.S. farmers, ranchers, and companies, help create jobs in the United States, and help American consumers save money while offering them more choices. The Agreement will also benefit the people of Panama by providing economic opportunity and by strengthening democracy.

Consistent with the Trade Act, I am sending this notification at least 90 days in advance of signing the Agreement. My Administration looks forward to working with the Congress in developing appropriate legislation to approve and implement this Agreement.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

March 24

In the morning, at Camp David, MD, the President had an intelligence briefing.

March 25

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush returned to Washington, DC.

March 26

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, on the South Lawn, the President participated in a demonstration of alternative fuel vehicles.

March 27

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with White House Press Secretary Tony Snow. Later, he had an intelligence briefing.

Later in the morning, at the U.S. Postal Service Vehicle Maintenance Facility, the President participated in a demonstration of alternative fuel vehicles.

March 28

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

March 29

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, in the East Room, he met with the House Republican Conference.

In the afternoon, in the East Room, the President participated in a photo opportunity with members of the Children's Miracle Network.

The President announced his intention to designate the following individuals as members of a Presidential delegation to Dakar, Senegal, to attend the inauguration of President Abdoulaye Wade of Senegal on April 3: Elaine L. Chao (head of delegation); Janice L. Jacobs; Louis W. Sullivan; Bobby Pittman, Jr.; and R. Timothy Ziemer.

March 30

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he went to Walter Reed Army Medical Center, where he visited with patients and medical personnel in the Occupational Therapy Unit and the Physical Therapy Unit. He also presented Purple Heart medals to 11 soldiers.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Camp David, MD.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Alan Garcia Perez of Peru to the White House on April 23.

The President declared an emergency in Iowa and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local response efforts in the area struck by record snow and near record snow on February 28 to March 2.

The President made additional disaster assistance available to Alabama by authorizing an increase in the level of Federal funding for debris removal and emergency protective measures as a result of severe storms and tornadoes that struck the State on March 1.

The President made additional disaster assistance available to Georgia by authorizing an increase in the level of Federal funding for debris removal and emergency protective measures as a result of severe storms and tornadoes that struck the State on March 1–2.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted March 26

Janet E. Garvey, of Massachusetts, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Cameroon.